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Bureau of Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance  
Office of Food for Peace**

**ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT**

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## Acronyms

BBSS	Beneficiary-Based Sample Survey
BDHS	Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey
CAP	Community Action Plan
CAV	Community Agriculture Volunteer
CC	Community Clinics
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CG	Community Group
CHV	Community Health Volunteer
CSC	Community Score Card
CSG	Community Support Group
DCRM	Disaster and Climate Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DPHE	Department of Public Health Engineering
EIBM	Early Initiation of Breast Milk

EKATA	Empowerment Knowledge and Transformative Action
EPI	Expanded Program on Immunization
FFBS	Farmers' Field Business School
FLAIRb	Fostering Learning and Adaptation in Resilience building
GMP	Growth Monitoring and Promotion
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
HHN	Health, Hygiene and Nutrition
IGA	Income Generation Activity
LEB	Local Elected Body
LGED	Local Government Engineering Department
LOA	Life of Award
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MTE	Midterm Evaluation
NBD	Nation Building Department
ODF	Open Defecation Free
PEP	Poor and Extreme Poor
PLW	Pregnant and Lactating Women
PMTS	Process Monitoring Tracking System
PNGO	Partner Non-Government Organization
PTS	Participants Tracking System
RMTS	Routine Monitoring and Tracking System
SBCC	Social Behavioral Change Communication
SBTB	School-Based Teen Brigade
SHOUHARDO	Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunities
STREAM	System for Tracking Results and Evidence for Adaptive Management
ToC	Theory of Change
UDCC	Union Development Coordination Committee
UDMC	Union Disaster Management Committee
UDMP	Union Disaster Management Plan
UDV	Union Disaster Volunteers
USAID/FFP	United States Agency for International Development/ Office of Food for Peace
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW TABLE

<p>Program Name: Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunities III (SHOUHARDO III).</p> <p>Goal: Improved gender equitable food and nutrition security and resilience of the vulnerable people living in the Char and Haor regions in Bangladesh by 2020.</p> <p>Geographic Focus: The Program operates in the Char and the Haor regions in Bangladesh reaching eight districts (Kurigram, Gaibandha, Sirajganj, Jamalpur, Kishoreganj, Netrokona, Habiganj and Sunamganj), 23 Upazila (sub-districts), and 115 unions.</p> <p>Population coverage: The primary focus is on 384,000<sup>[1]</sup> individuals from 168,521 vulnerable households.</p>
<p>Purpose 1: Increased equitable access to income for both women and men, and nutritious food for women, men, boys and girls.</p> <p>Sub-Purpose 1.1: Increased agricultural production of PEP.</p> <p>Sub-Purpose 1.2: Increased access to agricultural markets for PEP.</p> <p>Sub-Purpose 1.3: Increased off-farm income for PEP</p> <p>Sub-Purpose 1.4: Increased utilization of financial services by PEP.</p>
<p>Purpose 2: Improved nutritional status of children under five years of age, pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls.</p> <p>Sub-Purpose 2.1: Increased utilization of nutritious food for PLW, C&lt;5, and adolescent girls.</p> <p>Sub-Purpose 2.2: Improved access to health and nutrition services.</p> <p>Sub-Purpose 2.3: Reduced prevalence of water-borne diseases.</p>
<p>Purpose 3: Strengthened gender equitable ability of people, households, communities and systems to mitigate, adapt to and recover from man-made and natural shocks.</p> <p>Sub-Purpose 3.1: Increased preparedness of PEP households and communities to mitigate and respond to shocks.</p> <p>Sub-Purpose 3.2: Local Government Institutions' (Union Parishad) Capacity and implementation of DCRM activities increased.</p>
<p>Purpose 4: Increased Women's Empowerment and Gender Equity at family and community level.</p> <p>Sub-Purpose 4.1: Strengthened agency of women.</p> <p>Sub-Purpose 4.2: Improved environment for women's empowerment.</p>
<p>Purpose 5: Provision and utilization of public services (i.e. Local Elected Bodies &amp; Nation Building Departments) for communities especially for PEP increased.</p> <p>Sub-Purpose 5.1: Communities (especially PEP) are better able to demand and negotiate increased public (Union Parishad &amp; NBD) services.</p> <p>Sub-Purpose 5.2: Accountability of LEBs &amp; NBDs to the needs of communities, especially to PEP, increased.</p>

<sup>[1]</sup> Considering FY16 and FY17 actual reach and out years targets of unique and direct participants, the program LOA targets has been revised into 384,000 participants. This revised strategy of life skills training and household orientation on disaster contingency plan is the prime factor of changes of targets which was earlier proposed in DFAP proposal

Total Program participants: 384,000

1. Program Element- Agricultural Sector Capacity: Agriculture and livelihoods interventions will benefit 144,930 women, men, and youth farmers.
2. Program Element- Assistance and Recovery: School cum flood shelter and mound protection wall will benefit 10,074 program participants.
3. Program Element- Capacity Building Preparedness and Planning: 13,806 PEP community members will engage in climate change and disaster resiliency trainings.
4. Program Element- Civic Participation: 33,145 women and adolescent girls will be empowered through EKATA women's groups. 10,417 VDC members and 19,000 youth group members will be capacitated on leadership and governance issues aiming to build linkage with the local government and NBDs to leverage necessary support for PEPs.
5. Program Element- Maternal and Child health: 97,069 program participants reached under this program element.
6. Program Element- Nutrition: 29,165 pregnant, 23,516 lactating women and 71,119 other family members will receive supplementary food rations.
7. Program Element- Social Assistance: About 92,000 people will be covered through emergency response subject to occurrence of disaster events and decision of response with its scale.
8. Program Element- Strengthen Microenterprise Productivity: 92,686 program participants got the opportunity to engage in IGAs, 28,410 PEP community members (90% women and adolescent girls) got the opportunity to join VSLAs and 10,000 youth received Youth Employability Skill training.
9. Program Element- Water Supply and Sanitation: 91,811 program participants reached.

#### **Roles and Responsibilities:**

CARE Bangladesh will provide technical support to SHOUHARDO III Program, building capacity of the implementing Partner Non-Governmental Organizations (PNGOs), monitoring and ensuring quality implementation of the program activities. Especially, the program will actively monitor the quality of the systems to ensure that resources are used for their intended purposes. A Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system consisting of key indicators from USAID/FFP, FtF, the GoB, and CARE Mission will be established to measure outputs and impact using participatory, qualitative and quantitative methods.

**Implementing Partners:** Local PNGOs include SKS Foundation (SKS), Mahideb Jubo Somaj Kallayan Somity (MJSKS), Eco-Social Development Organization (ESDO), National Development Program (NDP), People's Oriented Program Implementation (POPI), and Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM). PNGOs implement technical interventions, monitor results, and share program learning. Each PNGO brings to SHOUHARDO III specific technical expertise and long and successful experience improving food security and resilience in targeted districts.

## **I The Annual Results Report Narrative**

### **1.1 Activity Interventions and Results**

Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunities (SHOUHARDO) III is a Development Food Security Activity (DFSA) funded by the United States Government through the United States Agency for International Development/ Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP), with complementary funding from the Government of Bangladesh (GoB). SHOUHARDO III is a multi-sectoral program that addresses food and income insecurity, maternal and child health and nutrition, women's and youth empowerment and seeks to improve access to public service for the rural poor while building their resilience capacities.

This Annual Results Report (ARR) for the Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) covers activities and results for the period of October 1, 2017, to September 30, 2018. In FY18, the program completed 78% of its planned activities leading to significant outcomes in the livelihoods of the program participants. Results included in this report were obtained from field observations and interviews with participants, the annual Beneficiary-Based Sample Survey (BBSS), the program's recurrent monitoring system known as Fostering Learning and Adaptation in Resilience Building (FLAIRb) and the Midterm Evaluation (MTE). The results indicate increases in income sources, savings, preparedness for disasters, and access to public and private services. CARE places a high premium on women and girls' empowerment, and in FY18 there were noted improvements for women in decision making, mobility, and self-earned income. Improving societal norms has also led to better maternal health, especially in nutrition and care during pregnancy, sharing of domestic roles, and reductions in domestic Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

The FY18 BBSS depicted significant progress of the program at individual, household and community levels. For example, 77.1 percent (431) of 662 surveyed program participants reported increased market access, compared to 66.7 percent in FY17, and 70.3 percent (1011) of 1,428 households received early warning information and adopted risk-reducing actions to better respond to shocks. The progress on prevalence of mothers receiving antenatal care is also notable; FLAIRb third round revealed that 95.6 percent (239) of 250 mothers surveyed received antenatal care services from the community-based health facilities. The same survey also confirmed that 76.3 percent (95) of 125 women reported being involved in increase household decision making in FY18, compared to 57.6 percent in FY17. Furthermore, BBSS 2018 suggested that 61.2 percent (829) of 1,428 participants were satisfied with overall services provided by the local government.

In FY18, SHOUHARDO III brought in an international consulting firm to conduct the MTE with field work completed in March 2018. The consultant's findings indicated that the program was largely on track to achieve its goals and targets, and was exhibiting impressive early results in incomes, behavior changes, marketing, and resilience building. The MTE report<sup>1</sup> provided a number of areas of improvement, the key ones being: (1) ensuring program quality; (2)

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<sup>1</sup> [https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf\\_docs/PA00T718.pdf](https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00T718.pdf)

achieving sustainable impact; (3) focus on adolescents and youth; and (4) putting in place implementation systems that would ensure lasting impacts for the program. CARE responded through the SHOUHARDO III MTE Action Plan (Annex 1) submitted to USAID/FFP.

After receiving the MTE report, SHOUHARDO III conducted a review of its Theory of Change (ToC), considering the changes in context as well as implementation approaches that the program will need to take as per MTE findings and recommendations. A Technical and Operational Performance Support (TOPS) staff facilitated the review session in-country. The objective of the review was to test whether or not the program's causal logic, assumptions, and stakeholders had changed in a manner that could affect results. The review looked at outputs and outcomes in the ToC and determined that 5 percent (7) of 149 of the program result areas were above target levels, 64 percent (96) out of 149 on target and a further 13 percent (19) out of 149 below the expected level. Approximately 18 percent (27) of the results could not be verified and the program included a process to track the results in these areas. The ToC was updated to address the changes noted and ensure that the results below expected levels were ameliorated with refined activities and/or approaches. The updated ToC (Annex 2) was also submitted to USAID/FFP together with the MTE action plan.

In FY18, the program received sales proceed from FY17 monetization commodity from GoB and handed over 43,400 Metric Tons (MTs) of Soft White Wheat. The processing of the payment is underway and payment is expected to be received in October/November 2018. Table I below shows the monetization status of FY18:

**Table I: SHOUHARDO III monetization Commodity Receipts and Sales Proceeds**

CF Year	Commodity	Call Forward Tonnage	Sales Proceeds (USD)	Remarks
FY 2017	Wheat, Soft white Bulk	19,730	5,929,264	Actual paid to CARE.
FY 2018	Wheat, Soft white Bulk	43,500	9,924,016	Estimated. Proceeds is expected to be received in Late October/November 2018

In FY18 the program spent US\$15,535,298 against an approved budget of US\$ 21,518,686 representing an overall burn rate of 72.19% (the details has been elaborated in ARR expenditure Report



**Table 2: Summary of income and expenses for SHOUHARDO III in FY18**

Particulars	Monetization	202e	ITSH	Host Country contribution	Total (\$)
Opening balance as of 01 October 2017	6,879,238	5,592,606	819,912	366,401	13,658,158
Add: receipts in FY18 (including program income)	6,023,540	3,974,800	1,284,800	1,404,797	12,687,937
Available balance for FY-2018	12,902,778	9,567,406	2,104,712	1,771,198	26,346,094
Less : total expenditure in FY18	5,317,247	7,129,732	1,018,167	2,070,152	15,535,298
FY 2018 Closing Balance	7,585,531	2,437,674	1,086,545	-298,954	10,810,796
Adjustment of Currency fluctuation	-129,188			-6,676	-135,865
<b>FY 2018 Adjusted closing balance (carryover to FY-2019)</b>	<b>7,456,343</b>	<b>2,437,674</b>	<b>1,086,545</b>	<b>-(305,630)</b>	<b>10,674,933</b>

For more details see attached *Annex 3 – Detailed Financial Management Information*.

## **1.2 Purpose Level Progress**

SHOUHARDO III program is implemented under five purpose areas in an integrated manner that are intended to ensure maximum impact. The third round of FILAIRb revealed that HHs that received multiple services have increased their resilience capacities compared to the HHs that has received one. An example was the inclusion of multiple thematic areas (health, nutrition, gender, resilience and governance) in the FFBS module enhanced the capacity of the participants have worked better than the previous model that solely focused on agriculture and livelihood. Another learning was that when silo-ed interventions tend to reach specific household members but when integrated each household member though primarily target for different activities e.g. youth, women group and farmer groups, the delivery of the same message has deep impact as household member are reinforcing each other.

In FY18, program participants continued to report increases in income as they adopted or sustained engagement in program-supported livelihood interventions and strategies. The increased incomes led to enhanced diets and empowered women as they began to have greater say in household decisions. In the process of building and diversifying sources of income, participants interacted with both public and private service providers and the enhanced negotiation skills provided by the program are building linkages that will be necessary for sustained production after the program ends. Building on the lessons from the 2017 flooding in Northern Bangladesh that affected both Char and Haor, participants were more aware of the need to build diversified sources of income and savings, and to adopt measures (e.g. growing

flood tolerant crop varieties) at household and community levels to minimize the impact of future floods and similar disasters. SHOUHARDO III did not intervene directly rather supported targeting to ensure participants receive government support. The Bangladeshi that the government provided providing food and cash support till the next harvest, and conducted market operations that helped ensure stable prices and reduced impact of losses in the households. Targeted households received multiple interventions from all purposes. Tables 3, 4, and 5 below show the breakdown of households who benefitted from all purposes' activities.

**Table 3: Number of Direct Participating Households Receiving Multiple Interventions by Sector (SO/Purpose) - Part 1**

Column	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	Unique Participants across all purposes	PA <sup>2</sup>	PA	PA	PA	PA	PA	PA	PA
		1	2	4	5	1 & 2	1 & 3	1 & 4	1 & 5
HHS	159,924	6,266	7,605	771	634	6,447	4	2,171	2,383

**Table 4: Number of Direct Participating Households Receiving Multiple Interventions by Sector (SO/Purpose) - Part 2**

Column	A	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
	Unique Participants across all purposes	PA	PA	PA	PA	PA	PA	PA	PA
		2 & 4	2 & 5	4 & 5	1,2,3	1,2,4	1,2,5	1,3,4	1,3,5
HHS	159,924	1,466	816	45	7	4,261	2,755	8	2

**Table 5: Number of Direct Participating Households Receiving Multiple Interventions by Sector (SO/Purpose) - Part 3**

Column	A	R	S	T	U	V	W	X
	Unique Participants across all purposes	PA	PA	PA	PA	PA	PA	PA
		1,4,5	2,4,5	1,2,3,4	1,2,3,5	1,2,4,5	1,3,4,5	1,2,3,4,5
HHS	159,924	421	158	1,581	57	3,774	23	118,269

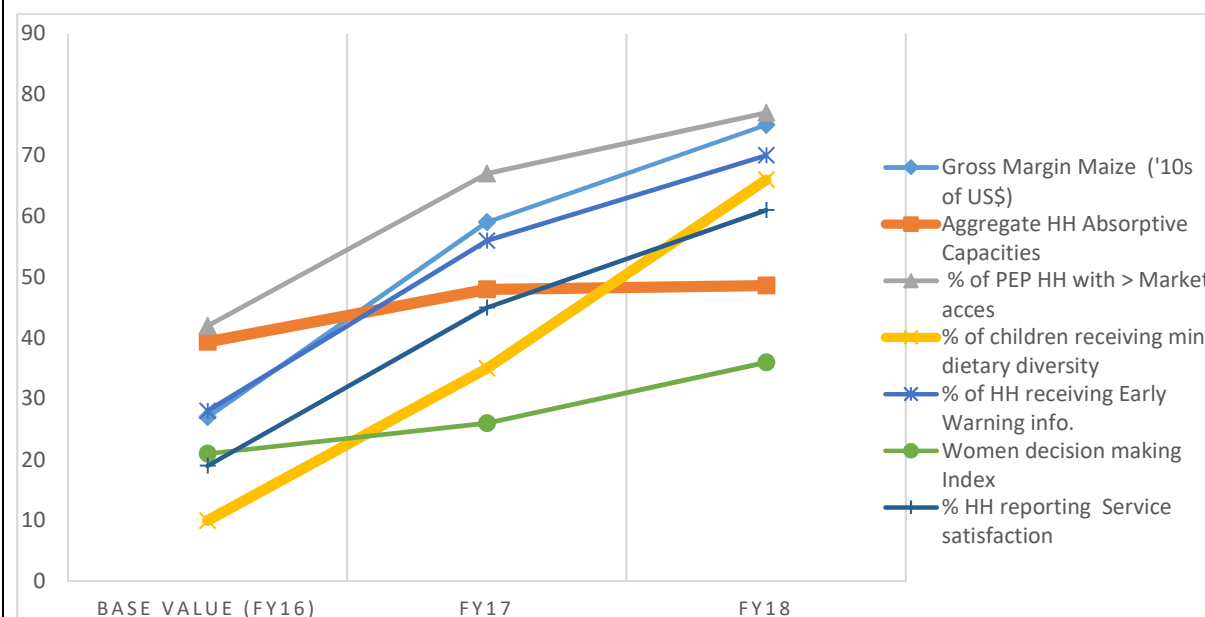
As noted from the above tables, program integration is bearing results with 74 percent (118,269) of 159,924 of target households receiving program support across all five purposes, while only 9.5 percent (15,276) of participants received support from only one purpose.

As noted from the results and shown in the Indicator Performance Tracking Table (Annex 4), most of the result areas began to flatten in FY18, as compared to the steep increase in results in FY17. This was expected and desirable as it reflects a sustaining of impact in FY18 when most of the program participants received only incremental trainings and not any direct inputs. The

<sup>2</sup> "PA" stands for Purpose Area

fact that the farmers and other producers for example continued to invest and even earn much more is a clear indication that program results are now being passed onto and owned by individuals, and the program will need to focus on engaging these producers and the support systems to ensure long-term sustainability. Text Box I below provides more precise details to this progress.

**Text Box I: Comparative Progress between FY18 and FY17**



The above graph illustrates progress in selected result areas. From the graph there was a general upward trend from baseline (FY16) to FY17. This was expected as it reflects the intense support period for the program with most community groups and households. In FY18 that support reduced to mostly stop gap support identifying gap areas for most activities. In comparison FY18 represents a slowing down of that momentum compared to the FY17 performance. The program considers this appropriate and to be the trend in FY19 and FY20. The follow specifics point provide further context to program progress in FY18 on selected indicators.

1. The fact that most households did not go below the FY17 spike is indicative that the results will very likely sustain at the same level or keep going upwards at a slower rate. For farmers for example an upward trend in gross margin means they continue to invest and are producing more and getting better prices
2. 2 indicators on minimum dietary diversity and women decision making rose faster in FY18 compared to the FY17. It's important to note that these are slow picking areas that need incomes, services and other supportive skills and knowledge to be in place. The program expects these to keep on the rapid upward trend in FY19.
3. The indicator on absorptive capacities seems to have flattened out totally. The slowing was driven by the shocks (floods in July/August) 2017. The impact for many households lasted throughout the year. As the households benefit from the increased production and income opportunities in 2018/19 it is expected that they will continue to enhance this capacity. Critically important is that they did not record a negative score.

The following section provides purpose-level results achieved in FY18. Activity level achievements are illustrated in brief under each purpose, the full list of activity and FY18 progress is presented in Annex 5 – Detailed Implementation Plan Status Report.

**1.2.1 Purpose 1: Increased equitable access to income for both women and men, and nutritious food for women, men, boys and girls**

Enhancing incomes and diversifying sources of incomes is a central approach to the implementation of Purpose 1 activities. The program provided trainings to participants on production technologies, approaches, marketing, and skills in negotiating for quality and timely services from both private and public sectors. By the end of FY18, the program reached 96.9 percent (163,316) of 168,521 total Life of Award (LOA) households targeted, with interventions geared at enhancing productivity in both agricultural and non-agricultural activities. This number includes both of those who have completed the full cycle of Farmers' Field Business School (FFBS) training and received minimal cash inputs for startup. Table 6 below shows the breakdown of participants reached based on their chosen livelihoods.

**Table 6: Summary of occupations trained by the program**

<b>Program Activity</b>	<b>Reached in FY18</b>	<b>Reached as of FY18</b>	<b>% against LOA</b>
Agriculture	29,439	29,887	92
CHD	29,594	32,379	101
Fisheries	5,929	8,964	94
IGAs	79,839	92,086	98
<b>Total</b>	<b>144,801</b>	<b>163,316</b>	<b>97</b>

***Sub-Purpose 1.1: Increased agricultural production of the Poor and Extreme Poor (PEP)***

Training farmers to achieve increased agricultural production is geared at enabling them to adapt and improve their production practices. The program trained participants following a holistic approach under the FFBS model. Based on their preference between farming and livestock/poultry rearing (in most cases both), participants were trained following a complete cycle covering several topics. The full FFBS cycle runs for four to six months with 10 to 13 sessions per cycle. In order to ensure application of learning such as using agricultural techniques (crop cultivation, livestock rearing, soil and water management, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), post-harvest management and improved fish culture methods), participants engaged in the following cycle and focused less on training and more on identifying solutions to issues they encountered, while also sharing their learnings with one another. Although the program is providing refresher training following a 'farmer-led FFBS', in the long run it aims to form 'producer groups' in which group members will work together for optimum benefit like collective input purchase and selling, collectively

*In the FY18 BBSS, 80.1% (530) of 662 participants reported higher production, compared to 8.1% in FY16.*

dealing with service providers (both public and private) and problem solving. During this phase, program will provide only need based support.

The training sessions were complemented by demonstration in the field, primarily by Community Agriculture Volunteers (CAV) who were selected at the beginning of the program based on pre-set criteria. CAVs received a five days long training from the program as well as regular technical support from the FF and TO-Agriculture and Livelihood. During the practical sessions, CAVs worked with the farmers to review progress and discuss any additional support required. When available, the local staff of Department of Agricultural Extension from the government visited the farms and ponds to provide additional technical support. Regarding quality seeds and other inputs, SHOUHARDO III linked FFBS participants with market actors such as seed companies, and collectors to ensure that they obtain quality inputs and build a network for selling produce. These connections were noted to evolve in many locations as many seed dealers began contacting FFBS participants directly to sell their products; in this interaction, participants received necessary advisory on planting and crop management techniques.

Farmers adopted the most helpful technologies and practices, including use of improved varieties of seeds that yielded quality crops, optimum sowing time, appropriate irrigation, use of fertilizer and better livestock management, such as improved feeding and routine vaccinations. FFBS sessions also touched on environmental issues, including a shift from the use of chemical fertilizers to compost production as well as usage and adoption of IPM practices such as sex pheromone trap, bird perching, and non-chemical pest control (chili dust and ash plus kerosene mixture). As a result of these initiatives, PEP producers obtained higher margins for their crops as illustrated in Table 7 below.

*In the FY18 BBSS, 99% (133,198) of 134,561 target participants applied improved technologies and management practices*

**Table 7: Gross margin earnings by program participant in three value chain crops**

Value Chain Crop	Gross margin in FY17 (USD)	Gross margin in FY18 (USD)	% Increase
Maize	590.14	749.80	27.05%
Chili	1,416.27	1,602.55	13.15%
Sweet gourd	1,140	1,417.66	24%

The program continued its support to build farmers' capacity in modern fish culture techniques. Fisheries specialists of World Fish trained program staff and participants through individual household coaching and at demonstration ponds. From these interventions, farmers learned about the appropriate stocking of fingerlings, supplementary feeding, timing, and disease

management. Prior to involvement in the program, farmers would not consider small ditches<sup>3</sup> as resource for fish cultivation. SHOUHARDO III explored this resource by demonstrating to farmers how it could become an additional source of income. Mr. Sadu Mia, for example, from Habiganj district, had long taken for granted the 12 decimal (0.05 ha) ditch located just outside his home. With the help of CAVs, he started utilizing the pond after learning about fish culture. He combined planting vegetables on the pond's dike, and from fishing alone it earned him USD \$80 per month.



Bitter gourd, ash gourd and snake gourd grown on the dike of Sadu Mia's fish culture project in Baniachong Upzilla, Habiganj. Photo: © CARE/2018

Mr. Sadu Mia (50) is a poor farmer with ten children from Tatari Mahalla village, Baniachong, Habiganj district. He was maintaining his family with a small amount of income from agriculture day labor, sharecropping, and fishing. Inspired by the CAV, Sadu Miah became interested in fish culture for his pond and requested that SHOUHARDO III train him in it. He also planted bitter gourd, ash gourd, and snake gourd on the dike of his pond with stocking fingerlings. After three months, he started earning from dike cropping and already earned USD \$53 from vegetables so far, plus USD \$80 from partial selling of fish against a total investment of USD \$137. He is expecting to get USD \$210 in addition to the \$133 from his pond. With the money, he bought 13 geese (\$47) for rearing after meeting his family expenditures. Now, he is an advocate

encouraging other farmers to be engaged in such cultivation. He is very much thankful to SHOUHARDO III program and expressed his gratitude to the program.

#### *Sub-Purpose 1.2: Increased access to agricultural markets for PEP*

The program's annual survey revealed more rural poor households had increased market access. In FY18, 77 percent (431) of 662 surveyed households reported better access to input and output markets, as compared to 66.7 percent in FY17. The program attributes this increase in access to collective actions in both buying inputs and selling produce, which has increased the negotiating power and prices to ensure better quality products at lower prices. Another direct implication is the connections that are being created for service provision and business advisories from the sellers of inputs and buyers of products, as noted in Sub-Purpose 1.1 above.

<sup>3</sup> In Bangladesh, these are small bodies of water located in rural residential areas



Reports by program staff visiting villages showed that farmers were much more aware of the better-quality seed dealers and brands, and could identify to some degree counterfeit seed dealers. Prior to SHOUHARDO III trainings and group formations, some of them had reduced interest in farming because seeds and other inputs they bought yielded poorer-quality crops.

SHOUHARDO III engaged with Lalteer Seed and Brac Seed at the national level, and Metal Seed, Syngenta, Ispahani and Charoen Pokphand (a Thai company) at the district level to provide seed distribution mechanisms in rural areas where poorer farmers are located and most villages cannot be reached. To support the process and reduce travel costs, the program began training village-level Micro-Seed Retailers (MSRs) who have access to markets in 256 villages. The village-level MSRs created a huge opportunity that worked especially well for the female farmers to purchase quality seeds for homestead vegetable production not too far from home. In remote areas where farmers do not have knowledge of quality seeds and no seed companies exist, SHOUHARDO III is also coordinating with Lalteer Seed Ltd to develop Micro-Seed Dealers (MSDs). By the close of FY18, seven MSDs were mobilized in seven unions, four of which were women. Two of the female MSDs already gained popularity among the farmers for the quality seeds they sold.



Two SHOUHARDO III female participants purchasing seeds from the local market at Balali union, Madan upazila, Netrokona. Photo: © CARE/2018

The access to quality inputs surely contributed to farmers' high production. To ensure income for farmers from high-quality produce, the marketing committee of the FFBS was mobilized to visit markets and meet the processing companies' agents to sell the products that mainly included maize, chili and sweet gourd to be sold to the local buyers. With these initiatives, SHOUHARDO III managed to reduce the number of middlemen between buyer to processing companies and retailers. By establishing a collective approach and decreasing the number of middlemen, for example, a chili farmer Gaibandha earned 11 percent (USD \$187.50) more per MT<sup>4</sup>.

*Market linkage beyond the farm: After providing training to the participants of Islampur on design stitch, SHOUHARDO III linked a group of 25 participants to a trader in Jamalpur. The group leader, Josna, collected orders from the traders in Jamalpur and updated her fellow participants regularly. Since they started, they delivered orders of at least 60 dresses per month, from which each group member earned USD \$154 monthly.*

The homestead vegetable producers, on the other hand, managed to sell their produce within their villages and to the local markets where they

<sup>4</sup> Market survey of prices in local market in October 2018.

received optimum price, as revealed during program staff monitoring. To enable women to access markets, SHOUHARDO III organized village-based collective selling. Under this approach, the program facilitated participants to accumulate their homestead produce at a fixed place, date and time where the local buyers and collectors would come as agreed prior the meetup. These women would also regularly communicate with the existing local markets in terms of prices and seasonality, hence they were informed and could negotiate with the buyers accordingly. This resulted in women engaged more with homestead production that let them to earn their own income and spend according to their basic needs.

#### *Sub-Purpose 1.3: Increased off-farm income for PEP*

SHOUHARDO III particularly targeted the youth in its off-farm interventions, with the intention to keep them away from exploitative and hazardous livelihood activities. One of the MTE recommendations for SHOUHARDO III to create better impact is to improve in the implementation of its youth strategy. While there were operational and field-level challenges in implementing the youth strategy, the program developed a way forward to boost its youth interventions.

In FY18, the program reached a total of 3,350 youths (1,948F: 1,402M) with vocational skills development training on different trades like computer operation, motorcycle mechanics, electric house wiring, wood carpentry, power loom, masonry, handicrafts and cow and goat fattening. These trainings provided a requisite two-day life skills sessions to develop their business acumen that contributed to their effective decision making in trade selection and business planning. The program also emphasized linking the trained youth to employers, markets and financial institutions for potential employment. By the end of FY18, 32.6 percent (1,347) of 4,130 of the trained youth since FY17 were reported to be engaged in self or wage employment. The program also promoted some trained skilled youth facilitators to further provide vocational skills training to other youths.

While technical skills are crucially important and imparting these to participants – men, women and youth – improved their overall livelihoods, SHOUHARDO III also ensured that they get the essential skills to bridge them to employment, establishing market linkages, better budgeting and financial planning, negotiating to get the best deals and decision-making. This was made possible by incorporating life skills sessions in all the trainings conducted for female and male farmers, off-farm participants and



SHOUHARDO III provided vocational trainings especially for the youth to engage them in decent livelihood activities, augmenting their families' income. Photo: © CARE/2018



youths. These sessions were facilitated in two ways – classroom setup discussion and practice through demonstration. Life skills integration strengthened the purpose-wise program results and better performance of participant group members in their work. The following were seen as compelling results from the life skills interventions:

- On collective action of many group participants through selling their products and purchasing input: regular program monitoring showed that participant's attitude and behavior changed in getting best quality input, earning the best price for their production, expanding their market and pursuing support and services from different service providers
- Building basic life skills contributed to increase participants' motivation to self-development and confidence to overcome adversity.
- Increased practice by participants of bookkeeping of business capital, profit, expense and family expenditure: This calculation helped to build participants' realization about what to do next and motivated them to engage with the diversified income sources for their financial development

#### *Sub-Purpose 1.4: Increased utilization of financial services by PEP*

Throughout FY18, the program participants engaged in saving through VSLAs that enabled them to build up capital from their own savings and access loans to meet their business and emergency needs. SHOUHARDO III provided life skills sessions for VSLA members that focused on importance of savings, communication skills and financial planning and management. In FY18, 29,144 participants (28,448F: 696M) from 947 VSLAs formed in FY17 and FY16 saved a total of USD \$199,676, compared to USD \$40,223 in FY17. In addition, VSLA members got interest at the end of first cycle that they reinvested in different income generation purposes along with their deposited amount. Following VSLA's principle, participants took their share out with interest and started second cycle with additional capital compared to the previous year; this allowed members to take out loan and invest in Income Generation Activities (IGA) for FY19.

The VSLA initiative already reported impressive numbers in terms of savings amount and what the participants utilized it for. It was learnt from the field visits that in some of the neighboring communities' women groups formed savings groups that are somewhat similar to VSLA, but given the gaps identified by the MTE there is need to tighten the methodology to meet minimum standards and expansion to more target households. The program is reviewing the strategy of VSLAs and will be looking at opportunities to link them with MFIs and other formal financial institutions. In the current program efforts were to connect groups with one commercial bank that had extensive agent networks in the program areas. In view of FY18 achievements thus far and FY19 planning, the program will conduct a study to explore the options for further VSLA fund accumulation and investment in productive activities. In the long run, the program aims to establish linkages between VSLAs and Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) based on an assessment of the groups. The program had also been very keen to sensitize banking institutions to implement programs that are pro-poor. Table 8 below provides a snapshot of achievements of Purpose I interventions and results achieved in FY18.

**Table 8: Progress made in some key interventions under purpose one**

	Key activity	Unit	Total Target FY18	Total Achieved FY18	Remarks/Deviation Narration
<b>1</b>	Improve youth test scores on employability skills test	# of Youths	9,220	3,350	Developing a revised strategy which incorporated MTE recommendation and translating it into the field operation took time, therefore the employability skills development training and employability skills test target will shift to FY19
	Male		4,610	1,402	
	Female		4,610	1,948	
<b>2</b>	PEP IGAs established or improved through USG-supported programs	# of Participants	89,726	79,839	Due to temporary migration of the participants, the program could not reach the target, though it will be reached in the first quarter of FY19
	Male		17,957	15,754	
	Female		71,769	64,085	
<b>3</b>	Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), including farmers receiving agricultural-related credit, as a result of USG assistance	# of Participants	7,893	2,615	As the volume of capital in VSLAs was inadequate to meet the growing demand of participants, the program linked the participants with microfinance institutions to meet their demand. In response, SHOUHARDO III has taken initiative to strengthen VSLA activities as recommended by MTE
	Male		2,763	921	
	Female		5,130	1,693	

**1.2.2 Purpose 2: Improved nutritional status of children under five years of age, pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls**

SHOUHARDO III focuses on strengthening the social and behavioral change activities that promote the adoption of optimal health, hygiene and nutrition (HHN) practices at the household level by the targeted participants. In line with an integrated approach, in FY18, the program focused on Social and Behavioral Change Communication (SBCC) strategy implementation, mother leader platforms, Community Group (CG) & Community Support Group (CSG) capacity strengthening including linking to SHOUHARDO III actors and platforms, linking mothers and children to health facilities and conducting water quality assessments. One of the notable impacts was an increase in the number of children under five reached with vitamin A supplement, with the achievement of 73,273 against a target of 68,000. Furthermore, following the MTE suggestion, the program initiated a WASH challenge to develop a market-based and sustainable solution in response to the WASH problems in the program targeted areas.

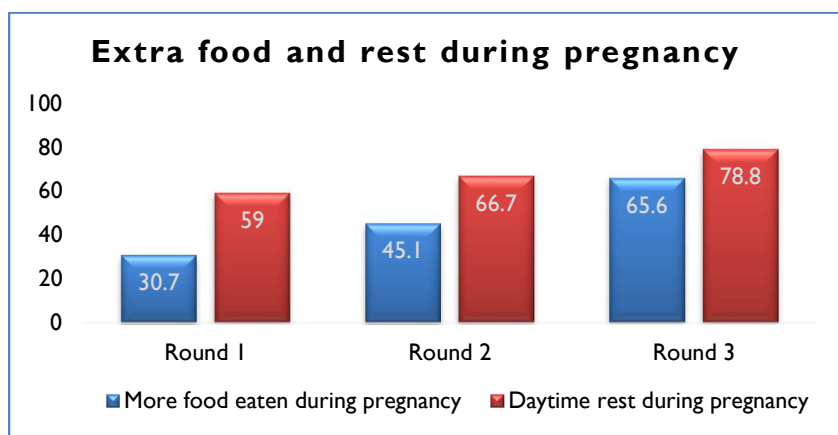
*Sub-Purpose 2.1: Increased utilization of nutritious food for PLW, children under five, and adolescent girls*

SHOUHARDO III engaged Community Health Volunteers (CHV) to conduct courtyard sessions with pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in which they covered topics like pregnancy care, child health care – especially exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding, dietary diversity, safe sanitation, and hygienic behavioral practices. The program continued to provide efforts to organize regular Growth Monitoring and Promotion (GMP) services in the community in addition to the Community Clinics (CC) in which they did need-based counseling for mothers of children under two, especially on exclusive breastfeeding and age-specific complementary feeding. The GMP sessions take place once in a month in line with the direction of the national policy on this.

The program's panel data survey, FLAIRb, in the third round collected in July 2018 revealed that that 93.4 percent (183) of 196 surveyed mothers indicated that their children were put on breast milk within one hour after birth, reflecting a rising trend from first round result of 83 percent and second-round result of 90.7 percent, while the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS) 2014 shows it was 51 percent nationwide. Village-level conversations indicated increased concern and understanding on how child care and feeding practices have a direct bearing on child health and nutrition status. Mani Akter and Sabina, from Fatehpur Union, Madan Upazila, Netrokona, told program staff that they started early initiation of breast milk (EIBM) in the first hour after birth and continued exclusive breastfeeding up to 6 months as they are aware of the importance of EIBM. Their children grew at expected levels (green color band) and were sick less often compared to children of mothers who had not engaged in EIBM.

The FY18 BBSS indicated that the prevalence of children 6 to 23 months receiving a minimum dietary diversity increased from 35.5 percent to 66.1 percent (489) of 740 in the last year while BDHS 2014 survey result is only 28 percent. Hena, a mother of children under two in Shuvokhola village, Goaler Char union, Islampur upazila, Jamalpur, reported that she regularly attended all courtyard sessions, GMP sessions and community-based cooking and feeding demonstrations. She reported that her children's nutritional status was in green color band zone during growth card plotting. She also claimed that other community mothers asked her about her child's positive outcomes and she explained to other mothers what she did.

Another important area for behavioral changes is maternal nutrition, in terms of extra food and extra rest during pregnancy, which was studied in SBCC formative analysis. In relation to this, the BBSS 2018 suggested a consistent rise in both extra food consumption and day-time rest during pregnancy, as can be seen in Figure 1.



**Figure 1: Percentage of pregnant mothers having extra food and rest during pregnancy**

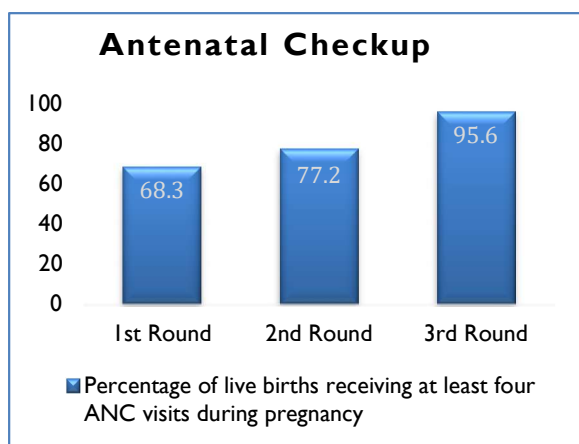
SHOUHARDO III provides complimentary food rations to the PLWs. In FY18, the program distributed 2,999.8 MT of commodity to 39,785 PLW. While in FY18, the target was to distribute 402,602 number rations, in reality, a total of 326,958 number rations were distributed. The ration package includes wheat (6.675 kg), peas (1.5 kg) and Vitamin A & D fortified vegetable oil (1 kg).

#### *Sub-Purpose 2.2: Improved access to health and nutrition services*

In this reporting year, the program trained 1,844 (628F: 1216M) of the 3,500 CG and CSG members on their roles and responsibilities as well as on ways in which they can improve community health support systems. There is no established formal reporting mechanism in place for the CG and CSG but they meet quarterly to discuss their progress at the CCs.

Unavailability of the government facilitators (Health Inspector) led to relatively low achievement in this. This training was designed to enhance capacity of the CG and CSG members of selected CCs that work in program areas based on the program's assessment on the functioning status of CGs and CSGs.

Furthermore, the program conducted 66 workshops with the Union-level health service providers and CHVs for enhancing service accessibility of the PEPs. Altogether 1,110 (730F: 380M) participants participated in the workshop. During the post-workshop period, the field observation recorded an improved referral linkage, especially in case of covering the children by the government immunization program.



**Figure 2: Percentage of mothers who received antenatal checkup**

delivered her baby in an institutional setting in order to reduce the risks and potentially save the lives of mother and baby. She went to Ramproshad CC for the prescribed minimum four ANC and delivered her baby at Upazila Health Complex, Fulbari in Kurigram. She shows her gratification for positive outcomes of her baby and she motivates other pregnant women to go to health facilities to receive ANC services and for safe delivery. Together, CHVs, CGs and CSGs mobilize whole communities for health and nutrition services from CCs and other available public and private facilities. Field visit reports referred to the mother's perception that behavioral practices related to improved HHN led to a declining frequency of disease and sickness. BBSS 2018 suggested that the prevalence of diarrhea for children aged 6 to 23 months decreased from 7.3 percent in FY17 to 6.9 percent (51) of 740 in FY18. However, another finding suggested that 39.9 percent (580) of 1,428 of the PEP households surveyed received HHN services from community-level health facilities against a target of 45 percent. This might be linked to the fact that the prevalence of diarrhea and other sickness decreased over time, thus reducing need for the services.

The program continued to focus on the advocacy efforts with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to ensure supplies and services to the different levels of health facilities, especially in the CC, which is the primary destination for a critical mass of community people. FLAIRb third-round results show clear progress in the percentage of mothers receiving some ANC from the community-based health facilities. During a household visit, a mother who recently delivered a baby, Sheiuly Begum of Char sholai village, Shimul Bari, Fulbari, Kurigram, informed program staff that she attended different SBCC activities and learned the importance of ANC, especially during checkups from medical personnel, and



A mother is helping her daughter to wash her hands using soap at Raitola village, Madan upazila, Netrokona. Photo:

The evidence generated from BBSS is that child immunization rate remained stagnant in comparison to the previous year. Probing into this unexpected result, SHOUHARDO III analyzed reasons that the methodology was to count the physical Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) cards. During field data collection for the BBSS survey, most EPI cards for children were unavailable and the shortage of EPI cards may have led the EPI vaccinators to give vaccines to the children without issuing any card. The FY19 survey will take this exception into account and consider an approach to record the immunization of children without EPI cards.

### *Sub-Purpose 2.3: Reduced prevalence of water-borne diseases*

One of the major challenging areas in both remote Char and deep Haor is improving the sanitation situation in order to achieve Open Defecation Free (ODF) communities. The program provided low-cost sanitary latrines for demonstration to extreme poor persons, this was limited in number and did not address the context specific issues identified in the deep Haor and remote Chars. In addition, program staff supported communities in continued advocacy and lobbying with the local government body and Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) for increasing WASH budget and other support, water quality assessment. Further, the program has been mobilizing communities towards ODF and improved hygiene behavioral practices, and awareness raising activities in the communities so that they share their needs with UP and install as well as use sanitary latrines alongside other services.

BBSS 2018 suggested a positive trend in using an improved sanitation facility, with 74.9 percent (991) of 1,428 participants surveyed in FY18 reported use of an improved sanitation facility. According to the Water Quality Assurance Plan, the program conducted a rapid assessment of the existing tube wells in all of the 947 villages. Of 11,932 surveyed tube wells, 11.23 percent (1,340) were found to be contaminated with arsenic. The program also tested water from some tube wells in the laboratory. In addition, a coliform test revealed that 14.55 percent (430) of 2,955 tube well water tested determined to be coliform contaminated. Moving to the next steps, the program aims to develop a WASH strategy in order to address this issue through advocacy with DPHE as well as UPs for reallocating adequate budget and installing new tube wells for the affected PEP. It is also continuously raising awareness in the targeted communities on the consequences of consuming arsenic and coliform contaminated water.

In Netrokona, an effective advocacy and lobbying effort with Union Parishad was demonstrated where project staff mobilized Village Development Committees (VDC) to coordinate with Union Parishad, especially male Union Parishad member Abul Kalam and female Union Parishad member Shahinur Akter, for allocating tube wells for PEP households of Mendipur Bamonikona village. After several requests the Union Parishad allocated six tube wells for six PEP households.



**Table 9: Progress made in key interventions under Purpose two**

	Key activity	Unit	Total Target FY18	Total Achieved FY18	Remarks/Deviation Narrative
<b>1</b>	Children under 2 (0-23 months) participating in GMP	# of Children	37,509	32,418	Though the target was set as 37,509, the program reached only 34,577 children during FY18. All 34,577 of these children participated in GMP services, but not all could meet the new Performance Indicator Reference Sheet definition, wherein children must participate 80% of GMP sessions. Following this criteria, 32,418 children have met criteria, meaning 6.2% of children didn't participate fully in GMP. The reason for the deviation is that some children have been graduated in the early months where the program couldn't provide GMP for those children older than 23 months
	Male		19,055	16,433	
	Female		18,454	15,985	
<b>2</b>	PLW receiving counseling during a household visit	# of PLW	44,609	38,907	The program could not reach its targeted PLW due to (1) drop out of CHVs at different areas in different times (2) some PLW who graduated early months of FY18 so that those couldn't be reached by CHVs
<b>3</b>	Adolescent girls supplemented with IFA for six months in the reporting year	# adolescent girls	51,969	13,764	Initially, the target was set considering IFA supplementation in the last 4 months. But, now the reporting mechanism has been revised as the number of adolescent girls who received IFA consistently over the year. So, the achievement number has been markedly reduced.

**1.2.3 Purpose 3: Strengthened gender equitable ability of people, households, communities and systems to mitigate, adapt to and recover from man-made and natural shocks**

A prime objective of the program is to build the resilience of people, households, communities, and local level institutions to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from human-made and natural shocks. As designed, the program facilitated resilience building capacity in an integrated way with other purposes for increased production and income, savings promotion, awareness on health and nutrition, empowering women and girls and establishing linkages with an external network.

In FY18, the program developed a resilience strategy focusing on three capacities for reinforcing resilience to enhance sustainability and scale of impact for the remaining program period. The major activities implemented under Purpose 3 focused on community capacity building on preparedness and response, as well as the increased responsiveness of local government institutions (Union and Upazila) and schools for disaster risk management. In this reporting year, the program put great emphasis on sharing and implementing contingency plans in addition to facilitating resilience sessions. A great deal of focus was also given on early warning and weather information collection and dissemination. Moreover, the program put efforts to execute the Union Disaster Management Plan (UDMP) in the targeted areas. One of the significant achievements of this reporting year was the School-Based Teen Bridged (SBTB) training on first aid which was useful not only for the students themselves but also for the community.

The following section provides a detailed explanation of the results achieved in FY18 with respect to gender-equitable resilience.

*Sub-Purpose 3.1: Increased preparedness of PEP households and communities to mitigate and respond to shocks*

In FY18, the program mainly focused on the implementation of the contingency plans, early warning information dissemination and providing first aid training to the SBTB members. In the reporting year, all communities collectively reviewed these plans to see the progress and make amendments to their plans.

Following an integrated approach, the program included sessions on disaster preparedness intended for the community-based forums (e.g. EKATA, FFBS, and VSLA). As a result, program participants received early warning and weather information using hotline number 1090. The FY18 BBSS reflected that the percentage of households receiving early warning information rose to 70.3 percent (1,011) of 1,428 surveyed households. Another indicator of increasing absorptive capacities was the average Coping Strategy Index of the targeted households went down to 57.56 from 110.7 last year.

*"I feel safe as I am taking necessary preparedness activities of my family through receiving early warning like crop harvesting, boiling paddy and child movement outside of home. This year, I did not lose my crop as I have cultivated flood-tolerant rice variety."*  
Khaleda Begum, Sunamganj

Resilience is composed of three types of capacities that enable households to manage and recover from shocks: absorptive capacity, adaptive capacity and transformative capacity. The program conducted a longitudinal study, FLAIRb, which indicates that the PEP households already started improving key indices of their resilience capacity by July 2018, specifically in access to cash savings, household assets and informal safety nets among the program participants. Overall, an improvement of absorptive capacity is seen as it raised to 48.3 in July 2018, while it was 39.2 the previous year.



The Progress Monitoring Tracking System (PMTS) findings and field visit reports suggest that communities and households adopted a series of effective risk reduction activities; for example, 146 people not only raised their homestead at Kurigram, Gaibandha, Sirajganj and Sunamganj, but also used that space productively (e.g. for cultivating vegetable, goat rearing). According to the Partner Non-Governmental Organizations (PNGO) reports, about 555 farmers cultivated flood-tolerant field crop varieties (e.g. BRRI- 28, 51, 52) in Kurigram and Sunamganj. As a result, the farmers could harvest their field crop earlier compared to the previous season while also ensuring that the crops remain unaffected from the flood. Same reports revealed the case of the adoption of bagging technology in 144 households in Gaibandha, Sirajganj and Jamalpur stood out as another example of the way in which people in flood-affected regions can grow food despite inadequate space. It is recommended for the participants to recycle their used polypropylene woven bags to save their homestead vegetables specially pit crops from flooding. The program provides training to the participants on how to use these bags. The food is delivered prepackaged.

PMTS also verified that CGs organized 212 vaccination camps for livestock in Bogurapara, Kurar para and Mandir villages of Kurigram. The expected result is to generate more income and savings for the PEP as it is less likely that they will lose their livestock due to disease.

SHOUHARDO III formed SBTB to create awareness for students of disaster preparedness, emergency response, early warning and risk reduction by conducting training and providing awareness in order to build a climate-resilient society. In FY18, the program organized two-day first aid trainings for 1,703 students (861F: 842M) in 46 schools with the support of Fire Service & Civil Defense and Health Department of Bangladesh. The participants stated that they are now equipped with necessary knowledge and skills to take first aid measures in a series of incidents (e.g. earthquake management, fire incident, burns, bleeding, fractures and wounds). In addition, the program ensured technical assistance to SBTB members in rolling out the school safety plans that were developed in the last year. In accordance with the plan, they already completed some planned activities, such as tree plantings in the playgrounds of six schools in Jamalpur, Sunamganj and Habiganj. Another example from the field visit reports that two SBTB members in Gaibandha conducted a Disaster and Climate Risk Management (DCRM) session for 420 students in their school.

*Sub-Purpose 3.2: Local Government Institutions' (Union Parishad) Capacity and implementation of DCRM activities increased*

The program has taken the initiative to strengthen local government institutions, especially the Disaster Management Committee (DMC) for enhancing awareness, ownership, and

*“The capacity building initiative of UDMC was very useful to know our role and responsibilities. We are currently engaged in risk reduction activities of vulnerable people like arranged disaster trial at Union Parishad level, organized vaccination campaign for livestock, made a boat for rescue of the victims.” Our efforts will continue in future. Chairman, Union Parishad, Simulbari*

accountability on disaster management. This included building the capacity of the Union Disaster Management Committee (UDMC) and Upazila Disaster Management Committee members. Moreover, the program supported UDMC members to develop UDMP. The objective of the plan is to map union-based disaster risks and resources, then prepare a plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). As a result, the UDMCs engaged in risk reduction activities like arranging awareness campaign for preparedness, providing uniforms to the Union Disaster Volunteers (UDVs) and allocating resources for mitigation and response. Besides this, the access of participants in the community to different safety net supports increased.

Apart from strengthening its lobby and advocacy with the government at the Union, Upzilla and District level in relation disaster preparedness and response, the program conducts quick assessment in case of a disaster and promptly shares it with relevant stakeholders including government and NGOs.

The 2018 Management Score Sheet survey revealed that the UDMCs’ capacity has increased gradually. In FY18, 89 Union Parishads incorporated DDR/Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) activities in their UDMP against a target of 55. These Union Parishads allocated budget to implement DRR activities like road maintenance, homestead rising and culvert construction.

In this reporting period, the program provided refresher trainings to UDVs and assistance in organizing their quarterly learning sharing meeting. PMTS findings confirmed that the UDVs disseminated early warning and weather information and assisted UDMCs in developing UDMPs. The annual PNGO reports documented that, in Gaibandha, the UDVs rescued 32 families during river erosion. Similarly, in Sirajganj and Sunamganj, the UDVs assisted UDMCs to distribute emergency relief (e.g. blankets).

### Infrastructure activities for disaster preparedness:

U- Drain<sup>5</sup>: All 20 targeted U-shaped culverts were completed in FY18. The program also initiated the construction of small drains to reduce waterlogging and improve communication in the rural areas so that the community people can have access to markets, Union Parishads, and other institutional structures.

### School cum Flood Shelter and Mound Protection Walls:

In this reporting period, seven school cum flood shelters and six Mound Protection Walls (MPW) were selected to be implemented by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) in Char and Haor respectively. USAID approved the construction of these schemes through LGED which was followed by an agreement between CARE and LGED. After the initial assessment of the community need and feasibility, CARE and LGED engineers jointly conducted environmental screening and pre-survey. Once, the LGED engineers prepare cost estimates, the selected schemes are reviewed in the tripartite meeting between LGED, CARE and USAID local mission and approved for funding. Local contracting societies don't have technical engineering capacity to build these kind of structures and in addition to the fact the government mandates LGED to do this to guarantee quality and maintenance.

*"Our life was very unstable and stressful as we reside on the bank of Dharala River. We lost our assets several times due to sudden floods. Now, I am aware about the disaster risk and take preparation as I have been selected as UDV's and received training on disaster preparedness from the program. Besides this, I am providing support to my villagers on disaster preparedness like receive early warning information, lobbying for DCRM resource allocation."*  
Alektan Begum, Kurigram

Currently, the construction of all seven school cum flood shelters is continuing in the field. The tender of two out of the six MPWs in Sunamganj district could not be finalized in FY18 as no vendor responded. Mound protection walls are comparatively large structures in terms of large quantity of materials requirement/carrying to the site, construction process and costing of schemes. According to LGED, large structures having large materials requirement/transportation and large costing will be unmanageable by the LCS. Therefore, in a tripartite meeting among LGED, CARE and USAID local mission reviewed the fact and decided to cancel two MPWs in Sunamganj district. However, they decided to replace them with new MPWs in other Haor districts. Among the remaining four MPWs, two walls have already been completed; however, the construction of one MPW is continuing. Table 10 below provides a snapshot of achievements of purpose three interventions and results achieved in FY18.

**Table 10: Progress against key interventions under Purpose 3**

	Key activity	Unit	Total Target FY18	Total Achieved FY18	Remarks/ Deviation Narrative
I	Community contingency plans developed	# of Communities	94	94	

<sup>5</sup> U-shaped cross drainage culvert

2	Facilitate risk assessment in community to develop their contingency plans to include possible interventions in Community Action Plan (CAP)	# of Communities	87	87	
3	DRR/CCA infrastructures constructed	# of Structures Built	184	172	
	Pipe culvert/U-drain		20	20	
	Community Resource Center		151	150	
	School cum Flood Shelter		7	0	Construction work ongoing. Revised completion timeline set in the USAID, LGED and CARE tripartite meeting in November 2018.
	Brick Mound Protection Wall		6	2	1 is ongoing, 1 is still in the materials mobilizing phase and 2 dropped after repeated tendering by LGED. Decided in the tripartite meeting in August 2018 to shift those 2 to other participating districts in Haor.

#### 1.2.4 Purpose 4: Increased Women's Empowerment and Gender Equity

CARE's SHOUHARDO III operates in a context where women are subordinate, poor in income earning and decision making, with limited mobility, and prone to GBV. In this regard, the program facilitated different approaches and designed activities to address the realities with the foundation of ensuring effective participation of women and girls in every activity.

The program continued to strengthen women and girls' solidarity platforms also known as Empowerment Knowledge and Transformative Action (EKATA), sharpening household-level relationships and improving an enabling environment for women and girls by strengthening men, boys and religious leaders' engagement. These initiatives resulted in increased agency and empowerment of women and youth to negotiate more equitable household relationships, work to end violence against women (EVAW), engage PEP women in economic activities and increase their control over on financial, nutritional and health decisions. In July

*"I feel proud as I am able to make household-level decisions and be involved with cash income through engaging livestock rearing and crop production, which allows me to plan for my spending". Alpana, Jamalpur.*

2018, the FLAIRb survey indicated an increase from 21 to 36 in decision making score<sup>6</sup> for women surveyed.

#### *Sub-Purpose 4.1: Strengthened agency of women*

Based on the learnings of previous phases (SHOUHARDO I and II), it was found out that women have the key potential; they just need safe space. EKATA model's aim is to provide a safe space for women and adolescent girls first and foremost and helping them access relevant information and knowledge, as well as skills building to improve their self-efficacy, agency and relations.

From field visits, the annual survey and routine monitoring, EKATA proved to contribute to increased access to information and skills associated with participating in livelihood activities and increased decision making. From conversations in the villages, women now call themselves “happy housewives” because of the value they get from being consulted for making decisions and giving their opinions with their husbands. Their male partners in the household reported that there were merits in sharing household chores, among which was improved relationships and engagement especially in joint decision making. Specifically, women who ventured in non-traditional income source such as the computer business also took part in making bigger decisions like agricultural production, purchasing land and addressing their children's health condition. During a field visit program staff came across two women participants in Kurigram District, Ranju and Lipi, who were excited as Lipi exclaimed, “We were in dark about conjugal relationships. My husband didn't count me in taking any decision. But now we can communicate with each other. He became consultative in everything.” This newly-found position, especially in with the acknowledgment of their role by men, is a huge step in confidence building for many women, who eventually venture into more challenging roles in income earning and decisions about health and education for their children, leading to greater outcomes for the households now and for their children in future.

The program incorporated advocacy and leadership for the EKATA leaders where they were trained on the definition and characteristics of advocacy, collaboration with different government sectors, characteristics of a good leader and effective communication. As a result, they were able to identify priority needs areas with other participants and collectively sought action and support from village and Union Parishad development committees to increase employment, income, girl's education and communication for safety net facilities.

#### *Sub-Purpose 4.2. Improved environment for women's empowerment*

The program supported participants in organizing couples' sessions in FY18 that aimed to enhance harmonious family life by building a better relationship between husband and wife. The husbands started opening up and, as a result, those who regularly attended were found changing

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<sup>6</sup> This score measures the level of women's involvement in household decision-making regarding consumption and expenditures, reproductive choices, and other decisions.

the way they treat their wives for the better, initially by doing household chores that lessened the burden on women's part. Women reportedly had adequate time to do other things such as catching up with their friends in the villages and going to the market. The annual survey indicated that the number of households where women sought permission from their husbands in order to visit markets and social places had fallen from 72 percent in FY16 to 44.2 percent (713) of 1,412 women in households interviewed.

SHOUHARDO III adopted this activity as part of the continuous capacity building on gender transformative approaches and strengthening men and boys' engagement in empowering women.

*In FY18, women also had expanded good relationship with other women, spouses and other household members, and other community members. Provashini of Hayetpur in Netrokona district commented, "Why didn't we know about SHOUHARDO III earlier? All our lives, our understanding men had completely different roles compared to women. My husband felt shy and never participated in any household chores and for me that was alright, as it was the norm. Now after participating in SHOUHARDO couple's dialogue, my husband embraced the fact that he, too, could take part in doing household chores. I, finally, also had the courage to ask him to do other tasks and he took it positively! We feel better communicating now and life has never been this easy!"*

As part of the action plan after the Training of Trainers held during the first half of FY18, the Men's Forum was formed. SHOUHARDO III primarily selected male counterparts of women members from the groups such as EKATA, FFBS, VDC and VSLA. The Men's Forum facilitated reflective dialogues by putting emphasis on building equity, equality, dignity and respectful relationships within the families and community in general. The Men's Forum also identified male champions to organize tea shop talks, public testimonies, and storytelling to influence other men to listen while they were gathered in common areas such as tea kiosks and social events. In those activities, they discussed and highlighted benefits of joint decision making, household responsibility sharing and freedom

from violence. One male champion from Sirajganj district, Md. Fazlul Karim, shared, "I felt proud that my neighbors selected me as a champion for promoting women empowerment. While it's a huge responsibility, we are 10 men in this village who are united to support the women and girls here. It became easier to influence the other men if in case they did something wrong and more importantly, why he should not do it."

In FY18, CARE continued to coordinate its efforts with other actors on the ground who promote women's empowerment. Coordination meetings with the local agencies addressing GBV continued where SHOUHARDO III staff regularly attended meetings to discuss progress on SBCC for improving nutrition practices and prevention of child marriage. As a result, community representatives committed to act by disseminating messages on investing in girls' education to prevent child marriage. Sensitization with other actors also continued, such as religious leaders, who were deemed instrumental in bringing changes about the usual perception of women in the communities. They incorporated messages that included respect and support for women during the weekly prayer where men mostly attend.



### 1.2.5 Purpose 5: Provision and utilization of public services for communities especially for PEP women increased

SHOUHARDO III aims for good governance at all levels as this enables the environment and support households need to pursue their livelihood strategies. To achieve this, community-driven development is gradually being promoted as a means of reinforcing public institutions. It empowers communities to demand services and provide a mechanism for augmenting trust, accountability and social contract between communities and government service providers. SHOUHARDO III continued with efforts to enhance communities' ability to negotiate for services while finding ways to increase the responsiveness and accountability of the government to the needs of PEP households, particularly those of women.

Major activities that the program implemented in this reporting year include: strengthening capacity of the communities through VDC's bi-monthly and annual general meetings, learning visits for the VDCs, preparing CAPs, capacity building of the youth through meetings and annual sports/cultural events, supporting Union Parishads in organizing periodical meeting, learning visits for the Union Parishads, providing training to the Union Parishads on their roles and responsibilities and organizing service fairs, field visits by government officials and regular Program Advisory Coordination Committee (PACC) meetings.

#### *Sub-Purpose 5.1: Poor and Extreme Poor communities are able to demand and negotiate increased public service provision*

In this reporting period, the average score of VDCs management capacity has increased to 73 in



Union Parishad Chairman providing VGD card to SHOUHARDO III, Madan upazila, Netrokona. Photo: © CARE/2018

FY18 compared to 63.28 for FY17. This shows that the program equipped the VDCs with the knowledge of organization development and good governance through formal training while facilitating their bi-monthly and Annual General Meeting (AGM). In addition, it organized cross-learning visits among VDCs in order to foster a learning culture. Simultaneously, it intervened to enhance PEP's active participation in the Union Development Coordination Committee (UDCC) meetings.

These activities resulting in increased demand, negotiation, and advocacy capacity of the VDCs. There is clear evidence from the field visit; for example, Monika Rani, VDC president of South Katlamari, and Belly Begum, VDC president of Middle Katlamari, in Gazaria union, Fulchar, Gaibandha, both shared their confidence in raising and negotiating for services from the Union Parishads such as

requesting for tube wells, latrines and safety net facilities. Other routine monitoring results confirmed that the number of advocacy initiatives undertaken by community-level groups increased significantly from 745 in FY17 to 830 in FY18. In January 2018, the VDC in Rudrasree village of Madan Upazila, Netrokona, started negotiating with the Chairman and Members of the Union Parishad to allocate tube wells to their village. VDC members went to the Union Parishad to share their sufferings due to insufficient number of tube wells in the community. After several follow-ups with the chairman and members, the Union Parishad allocated and installed two deep tube wells in Rudrasree in August 2018.

A range of service providers also offered support, e.g. vaccination for poultry and cattle, technical supports from Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer and health and family planning services from the CC, which in turn contributed to maximizing production and income as well as improving the health and resilience of the participants. The field visit reports suggest that the communities came together in locally-driven efforts geared towards solving some of the community problems through community-led initiatives such as small road construction, bamboo bridges, and tree planting.

*Sub-Purpose 5.2: Local Elected Bodies & Nation Building Department services are responsive to the needs of communities, especially to PEP women.*

Service provision of Union Parishads for the PEP and satisfaction of the communities about Union Parishad services has increased. The 2018 BBSS found that 61.2 percent (829) of 1,428 surveyed participants reported being satisfied with overall services provided by the local government. The average score of Union Parishad management capacity<sup>7</sup> has also increased from 38.3 in FY17 to 73.4 in FY18.

The field visits results also reflected the experience shared by the communities; for example, Rahena and Nasima from Ramhari village, Biddananda, Rajarhat, Kurigram, expressed their satisfaction in having 40 days employment opportunity during the lean period, tube wells, Vulnerable Group Development and Vulnerable Group Feeding safety net facilities for themselves and other eligible PEP in their village. It worth mentioning that the program provided capacity-building training in FY18 to 870 of a total 1,610 current Union Parishad members on the roles and responsibilities of Union Parishads and governance issues, with a focus on inclusive approaches that caters for the need of the often-excluded PEP communities. The program also organized the UDCC meetings to discuss community concerns and demands for ensuring services from the Union Parishad and Nation Building Department (NBD) for the PEP.

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<sup>7</sup> This is derived from the management score sheet methodology of assessing the performance/capacity of a leadership institution/committee based on preset criteria that include women participation, budgeting process, meetings and documentation of actions and plans. The maximum score possible is 100.



The program has facilitated a Community Score Card (CSC<sup>8</sup>) methodology aimed at increasing the space for negotiation of services between communities and local government. The second round of the CSC process has brought in considerable positive results in agriculture, livestock and CC services. For example, in Kishoreganj, the community scored 34 regarding the services of a CC in the initial meeting and scored 60 in the second round after seven months. On the other hand, the service providers scored 42 (for themselves) in the initial meeting but in the second round, the score went up to 73. This example offers a clear indication that the use of the CSC process produced good results; for example, the communities found the clinics open for increased time and the communities are being dealt with respectfully by the Community Health Care Provider on clinic premises. As per the commitment made by the livestock department, an Artificial Insemination Center established at the Union Parishad level to serve community demands regarding livestock rearing. This will in turn contribute to maximize the result of Purpose 1 and Purpose 2 results.

Utilizing khasland, alternative income sources have been created for the landless families. Among them, 16 households also got houses on their land. Besides the economic and nutritional aspect, these families now have a permanent settlement which upholds their dignity in the community for them and their future generations as well.

The Program facilitated a total of 58 PACC meetings at the national, divisional, district and upazila levels to review and support program progress and identify ways to improve government services for the PEP. The program also facilitated 130 visits of the PACC members to the program sites, against a target of 92. Their visits strengthened the demand side by encouraging program participants to utilize government services while also continuing their individual and collective community development efforts. On the supply side, the visits motivated government staff to interact with the PEP about their lives and livelihoods to foster better troubleshooting processes. As per the field observations of the program staff, government officials provided positive feedback on the program's implementation.

Table II below provides a snapshot of achievements of purpose five interventions and results achieved in FY18.



Vaccination Camp organized by the DoL at Ramkrishnapur under the Mriga Union, Itna, Kishoreganj, Photo: © CARE/2018

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.care.org/community-score-card-csc-toolkit>

**Table 11: Progress against key interventions under Purpose 5**

	Key activity	Unit	Total Target FY18	Total Achieved FY18	Remarks/ Deviation Narrative
<b>1</b>	Conduct training for youth group members on governance issues including environment, resilience, gender and advocacy	# of Participants	8,424	7,837	
	Male		4,212	4,240	
	Female		4,212	3,597	
<b>2</b>	Community groups (VDC/EKATA) placed advocacy issues in LEB/NBD)	# of CSOs	770	830	Almost 10% overachievement - Program has continued the discussion among the community groups on advocacy and negotiation for government services. Moreover, the community has started getting the effectiveness of advocacy and lobbying with LEB and NBD to get government services.
	VDC			466	
	EKATA			364	

## **2 Monitoring and Evaluation, Knowledge Management, Advocacy and Learning Highlights**

### **2.1 Monitoring and Evaluation**

SHOUHARDO III program introduced the new e-M&E system, i.e. System for Tracking Result and Evidence for Adaptive Management (STREAM), in FY18. STREAM went live on March 01, 2018, after the program provided training to all PNGOs' frontline staffs. CARE facilitated the training and provided on-the-job technical support to roll out the system and its upgrading. The M&E team also continued to carry out regular activities, such as the Data Quality Assessment (DQA), Core Occupational Group cash transfer monitoring, end-use monitoring, and onsite monitoring, and provided technical assistance to PNGOs on data cleaning and troubleshooting of Participants Tracking System (PTS) and Routine Monitoring and Tracking System (RMTS) data. Besides that, both PNGOs and new staffs were oriented on SHOUHARDO III M&E system as part of a regional initiative.

In providing technical support to partners, SHOUHARDO III's M&E team worked closely with PNGO staff to ensure accurate and reliable monitoring, as well as studies and evaluations towards capturing the impact of program implementation, particularly at the community level. In FY18, two major tracking systems, PTS and RMTS, were used for outcome and output level indicators, respectively. The M&E team provided implementation guidance to partners for all systems, with a focus on the quality of data that needs to be generated from all monitoring exercises. These mechanisms entailed capacity building for technical guidance, data cleaning and upgrading as necessary for smoother operations.

### Data Quality Assessment

As part of its M&E plan, SHOUHARDO III program initiated a DQA in each quarter in FY18 following structured tools and process. Out of 32 Routine Monitoring indicators, a total of 16 indicators data were assessed. Both Food for Peace (FFP) and custom indicators were selected for different purposes. During DQA, M&E staff carried out field verification at the source and desk reviews to revalidate data, the documentation process and use of RMTS tools. DQA observations reveal that PNGOs have been improving data quality day-by-day by regularly conducting DQA and capacity-building initiatives. Transcription error is the main obstacle for quality data at the source and program office level.

The program also conducted several studies for FY18 through third-party consultants, including the Panel Study and the BBSS. Findings of these studies have been processed and presented to program management and PNGOs, with careful monitoring by management teams for further improvement in program implementation while ensuring that significant impacts are achieved for participants.

The program utilized M&E data for improving and strengthening program interventions and processes. Among the notable use of the data included:

- The FY17 BBSS showed 55.9 percent of households received risk and early warning information through a separate channel. It has been found that it was required to concentrate on information dissemination at the community level. Thus, the program took initiative to rebuild the pathway to disseminate messages, such as introducing a web portal to capture information at Union Parishad Digital Centers, hanging leaflets at VDC rooms in the community, and introducing the 1090 hotline number in a different forum at the community. Further, in FY18 BBSS, it has been observed that 70.3 percent (higher than the previous year) households are receiving risk and early warning information through the hosted channel.
- During FY18, 117 youth were randomly selected to participate in an independent assessment on employability, and it was found that 82 percent of youth are students who have received employability training. Based on this finding, program strategies have expanded to review the guideline so that SHOUHARDO III can reach more unemployed youth, i.e. other than students, towards further implementation.
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Program DQA visits and monitoring identified that PNGO offices made all RMTS available during desk review preserved the documents in a systematic manner. During source document validation, it was observed that the recording process was not followed as per guideline in few villages. The program has taken the initiative to reorient the process at those villages so that recording processes will be followed moving forward.

## **2.2 Knowledge Management Advocacy and Learning**

The program engaged in a number of learning and advocacy activities that included testing out of an implementation model and tracking specific result areas to generate new learning. In the

area of advocacy SHOUHARDO III staff were engaged in a regional stakeholder discussion and worked with government officials in efforts to ensure that poor people were allocated access to common resources as stipulated in the government development policy. In addition the program produced a number of publications, video and documents reflecting the program progress. The full list and details of these activities are found in annex 6 – Knowledge Management, Advocacy and Learning brief.

### 3 Challenges, Successes and Lessons Learned

The program faced a number of challenges, recorded some successes and document lessons learnt in FY18. These are described below.

#### 3.1 Challenges

Based on its operating context and as identified in the MTE, SHOUHARDO III has to confront the following contextual realities in order to achieve sustained results:

Challenge	Solution/Mitigation	Status of resolution
Limited opportunities for livelihood diversification;	The program will conduct a formative study to identify the potential opportunities	Field work expected to be conducted in January 2019.
Limited access to land, impeding production and sanitation for rural poor and frequent river erosion, flash flooding and inundation of farmlands; and	-intensification of agricultural production has been the main approach but the program is now looking at alternative livelihood options	
Engaging adolescents and youth.	The program has reviewed its approach and engaged with partners and is using a life cycle approach to reach youth. See annex 7. Youth Engagement Approach.	Applied to vocational skills training. Work on adolescents commences in the second half of FY19

The program released a comprehensive guideline and has continued to discuss issues regarding fraud and misconduct in program implementation. Additionally, the program has significantly strengthened its actions to prevent the incidents of fraud that includes developing a transparency and accountability guideline and internal discussions on this with both CARE and partner staff. Most importantly, it will soon start broadcasting SMS to program participants directly to raise awareness as well as establish an internal complaint procedure.

### **3.2 Successes and Lessons Learned**

The program's successes and lessons are included in purpose level narratives under section two and were mostly around result areas. Regarding operational matters, SHOUHARDO III was able to identify the need for deeper level engagement by the program senior team in monitoring progress that was formalized through a performance monitoring system (PMTS). This system allow senior technical leads to engage with the participants and test whether the required progress is happening using basic indicators such as household role sharing between man and wife; access to government services and adoption of agriculture technologies. This approach allowed the technical leads to engage with participants to understand the challenges faced and were then able to consider more appropriate messages and approaches to fixing the challenges. Annexed to this report are two success stories that further illustrate the changes the program is making in the lives of its participants (Annex 8 – Success Stories)